

**CLANCY & DIAZ, LLP**  
PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

# Back to School Safety Tips for Sharing the Road with Children

As summer ends and the new school year approaches, California streets and neighborhoods prepare for the hustle and bustle of back-to-school season.

Whether you're picking up or dropping off kids at school, navigating around school buses, or sharing the road with young bicyclists and pedestrians, it's crucial to remain alert, drive carefully, and prioritize the safety of children.

## Tips for Dropping Off Kids at School

Remember, each school has specific guidelines and regulations, so it is important to familiarize yourself with them to ensure the safety of all students.

However, here are some general tips to keep in mind:

- **Avoid double parking**, which blocks visibility for other children and vehicles. Instead, find legal parking spaces or designated drop-off areas that allow children to exit the vehicle safely and efficiently.
- **Do not drop off or pick up children across the street from the school.** This forces children to navigate through moving traffic, putting them at unnecessary risk. Always ensure that drop-offs occur on the same side as the school, in a location with appropriate infrastructure such as crosswalks or designated areas for pedestrians.
- **Encourage carpooling to reduce the number of vehicles at the school.** Coordinate with other parents or utilize organized carpool programs provided by the school to reduce the number of vehicles entering and exiting the campus.



## Keeping School-Aged Pedestrians & Bicyclists Safe

Young pedestrians and cyclists are particularly vulnerable on the roads due to their size, limited understanding of traffic rules, and sometimes unpredictable behavior.

- **Avoid blocking crosswalks and bike lanes.** Blocking these areas with your vehicle not only inconveniences pedestrians and cyclists but also puts them at risk of getting hit by a car.
- **Observe and yield to children in crosswalks or intersections.** Always give them the right of way and allow them ample time to cross safely. Likewise, you should always stop for school patrol officers or crossing guards holding up a stop sign.
- **Be extra cautious in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and residential areas.** These are places where children are more likely to be present on foot or riding a bike. Exercise extra caution and reduce your speed in these areas. Expect the unexpected and be prepared to react to sudden movements or actions from young pedestrians and cyclists.

**Continued on page 4**

# Wide Right Turn Truck Accidents Can Be Deadly

Wide right turn truck accidents occur when a tractor-trailer attempts to make a right turn but fails to take the necessary safety measures, leading to devastating consequences for anyone or anything in the trailer's path.



Wide right turn truck accidents can result in severe injuries and, tragically, even fatalities. Victims of such accidents can suffer life-altering injuries, including traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, broken bones, and damage to internal organs. Crash victims have recourse through the civil justice system, and an experienced truck accident lawyer can help them navigate the legal process.

## Understanding Wide Right Turn Truck Accidents

Due to their massive size, tractor-trailers require a wider turning radius than passenger vehicles. As a result, truck drivers must take extra precautions when executing turns to ensure the safety of everyone on the road. Maneuvering such a large vehicle in traffic, especially during wide right turns, demands exceptional skill, experience, and attentiveness.

When making a wide right turn, the rear wheels of a truck follow a different path than the front wheels. This differential turning radius can catch inexperienced or inattentive truck drivers off-guard, leading to collisions with nearby vehicles, pedestrians, or stationary objects.

Wide right turns necessitate additional space and clearance to accommodate the large dimensions of a tractor-trailer. The length of the trailer behind the tractor requires ample room to avoid striking curbs, traffic signs, or other vehicles in the vicinity.

## Safety Measures for Truckers

Proper training and licensing are fundamental prerequisites for truck drivers to safely operate tractor-trailers and mitigate the risks associated with wide right turns. The comprehensive training process is meant to ensure drivers acquire the necessary skills, knowledge, and awareness to navigate these large vehicles responsibly.

Truck drivers must undergo rigorous training programs, including classroom instruction and practical behind-the-wheel experience, to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). These programs cover various aspects such as vehicle operation, defensive driving techniques, maneuvering skills, and safety protocols specific to trucking.

Key safety measures to prevent wide right turn accidents include:

- Positioning the truck correctly before making the turn
- Use of turn signals and yielding to pedestrians
- Checking mirrors and blind spots for potential obstacles
- Executing the turn slowly and smoothly, avoiding swinging wide

Truck drivers must also consider the additional braking distance needed when approaching a right turn, allowing ample time for the truck to slow down or stop if necessary. Abrupt braking or sudden maneuvers during a wide right turn can lead to load shifting, destabilization of the truck, and even rollover accidents.

Additionally, the weight distribution of the cargo carried by the trailer can impact the truck's stability during turns. Unevenly loaded trailers can cause weight imbalances, increasing the risk of tipping over or losing control while navigating a wide right turn.

## We Can Help You Demand Justice

Unfortunately, while truck drivers are supposed to be trained and prepared to mitigate the risks of wide right turn accidents, that is not always the case in practice. If you were injured or your loved one died in an accident with a tractor-trailer or other commercial vehicle, contact us today to review your potential legal options.





# Common Broken Glass Car Accident Injuries

One sometimes overlooked aspect of a car crash is the potential for broken glass injuries. When a vehicle's windshield, windows, or other glass components shatter during a collision, they can cause severe harm to the occupants.

The impact of shattered glass can cause a variety of injuries, including deep cuts and lacerations, internal bleeding, nerve damage, and even the loss of limbs. After sustaining broken glass injuries in a car accident that wasn't your fault, it's crucial to consult an experienced attorney with the knowledge and experience to help you navigate the complex legal processes involved in filing a claim for the compensation you deserve.

## Types of Broken Glass Injuries

During a car accident, broken glass injuries can occur through several mechanisms. The impact of the collision can cause the windshield or windows to shatter, exposing occupants to sharp glass fragments and resulting in cuts and lacerations.

Vehicle deformation and structural collapse can also generate broken glass that poses a danger to occupants. Ejection from the vehicle or self-extrication from the wreckage (e.g., grabbing a broken window while climbing out of the car) can lead to contact with broken glass, causing injuries. Additionally, further glass breakage can occur during rescue and extrication efforts, resulting in secondary injuries.

The severity of broken glass injuries depends on numerous factors, such as the speed of the collision and the presence of safety devices. The most common broken glass injuries include:

- **Lacerations:** Deep cuts caused by broken glass that can range from minor abrasions to severe wounds, requiring surgical intervention and potentially resulting in long-term disabilities.
- **Skull Penetration:** Forceful expulsion of broken glass fragments into the skull, posing a significant risk of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and requiring immediate medical attention.

- **Catastrophic Injuries:** Severe nerve damage and lacerations affecting blood flow, including frayed or severed spinal cord nerves, brain punctures, and lacerations to major arteries and veins, necessitating emergency intervention.
- **Eye Injuries:** Glass shards causing vision loss, blindness, and potential complications, requiring specialized ophthalmologic treatment to minimize long-term damage.
- **Severe Shock:** Excessive bleeding from glass cuts leading to shock, depriving organs of oxygen and potentially resulting in permanent organ damage or death if left untreated.
- **Penetrating Neck Wound:** Potentially lethal wounds that require immediate medical attention to protect delicate neck structures, including nerves, vessels, and organs.
- **Amputation:** Glass penetrating vulnerable body parts, severing arteries, and potentially leading to the need for limb amputation in severe cases. Glass cuts can also result in infections like tetanus or MRSA, which may require amputation as a last resort.

## Seeking Legal Help for Broken Glass Injuries

Knowing what to do after a serious accident can be confusing. Getting immediate medical care needs to be your priority. But it's also important to take action right away to protect your legal rights - and your ability to obtain the financial compensation you deserve.

Our law firm represents crash victims throughout the East Bay in all types of cases that involve car accident injuries, including those sustained from broken glass. Schedule a free case consultation today to see how we can help.

# CLANCY & DIAZ, LLP

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

3000 Citrus Circle, Suite 215  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

(925) 835-7500

2006 A Street, Suite 223  
Antioch, CA 94509

(925) 667-3659

420 Railroad Avenue, Suite 210  
Pittsburg, CA 94565

(925) 568-8707



**Back to School Safety Tips for Sharing  
the Road with Children**

**SEE PAGE 1**

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.



**Continued from page 1**

*Back to School Safety Tips for Sharing the Road with Children*

## **Sharing the Road with School Buses**

The area within 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children. If you're driving near a school bus, stopping far enough back to allow children sufficient space to enter and exit the bus safely is crucial. Other tips include:

- **Maintain a greater following distance when driving behind a school bus.** This added space serves as a safety buffer in case of sudden stops or emergencies.
- **Don't pass a stopped school bus.** Passing a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children is illegal in California (and in all 50 states). When a school bus's red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, other vehicles must come to a complete stop until the lights stop flashing and the arm is retracted.

## **Contact a Lawyer if Your Child was Injured**

At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, our attorneys put your family's best interests first. If your child was injured in an accident, we can protect your rights and fight for the accountability you deserve. Contact us today to see how we can help you.